THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Volume of Cargo moved through CIWTC between India and Bangladesh is as under:—

Year	Tonnage (in MT)
1993-94	21.113
1994-95	25.536
1995-96	62.772

(c) Operational difficulties such as restriction in number of ports of call, renewal of voyage permission, delay in Custom clearance, etc. are being experienced by CIWTC.

(d) The Standing Committee comprising representatives of both India and Bangladesh constituted under the provisions of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit & Trade met on 27th and 28th February 1997 in New Delhi to discuss and remove the bottlenecks in Cargo movement between the two countries.

केन्द्रीय सड़क निधि में वृद्धि

1290. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सड़क निधि में वृद्धि के संदर्भ में संसद के दोनों सदनों द्वारा पारित प्रस्ताव को कार्यान्वित करने हेतु मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा हाल ही में कोई अंतिम निर्णय ले लिया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी० जी० वेंकटरामन): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) मामला अभी विचाराधीन है।

Amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act

1291. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act are contemplated on account of frequently changes in the automobile technology and traffic management practices; if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) whether any other measures are proposed to be taken up to curb the threat of forged licences and permits; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Amendment in the Motor Vehicles Act is a continuing process and as and when any technical or other developments so warrant, necessary changes in the Act are incorporated.

(b) and (c) The power to issue licences and permits is vested with the State Governments and they have been advised from time to time to curb this threat.

Share from the Central Road Fund to Kerala

1292. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the share of Kerala from Central Road Fund and the amount paid to this State during last three years; and

(b) the amount due as on date and by when the balance is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The balance share of Kerala from Central Road Fund (CRF) as on 31.3.1997 is Rs. 183.66 lakhs on the basis of tentative accruals of the consumption of petrol in the State.

Funds from CRF are allocated on lump-sum basis having regard to the accruals on the basis of consumption of petrol in the respective States, scheme

sanctioned and the availability of funds. The amount allocated to the State of Kerala during the last 3 years is as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	104.00
1995-96	17.00
1996-97	6.00 (Proposed)

Seminar on Problems of Goods Transport Sector

1293. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Seminar to discuss problems of Goods Transport Sector was organised at Hyderabad in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action to implement suggestions and decisions taken in the Seminar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Widening of National Highway No. 51

1294. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are launching a scheme, in near future to widen and convert the National Highway, No. 51 into double lane, near Tura; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Widening to two lanes (without strengthening) of 20 km. length of National Highway No. 51 near Tura has been included in the Annual Plan 1996-97 at the cost of Rs. 6.00 crores. The details estimate from the State of Meghalaya is awaited.

Funds for Sick NTC Mills Workers

1295. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved funds for the sick National Textile Mills (NTC) to enable the company to pay pending wages to nearly 50,000 mills workers;

(b) whether Government are required to pay Rs. 62 crore to the idle work force of NTC, if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take so as to stop payment of such idle wages in future which is a loss to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) During the current financial year, Govenrment have released funds amounting to Rs.303 crores to cover the shortfall faced by NTC in payment of wages, salaries and bonus to its employment.

(b) The monthly wage bill of NTC employees and workers is about Rs.40 crores, out of which about Rs.31 crores is estimated to be on account of idle wages.

(c) The Government had approved a Turn Around Plan in 1995 for rehabilitation of the NTC mills. The Plan was subsequently placed before the BIFR, for their consideration. The investment needs of the mills under this Plan are to be funded from proceeds of surplus land/assets. On account of difficulties being faced in obtaining BIFR approval and in effecting land sales, it has not been possible to implement the Turn Around Plan.